

The Junior with the Luck Piece

Two favorites in the 5th Junior Amateur Championship at the Yale Golf Course were Tommy Jacobs, of Montebello, Cal., the defending Champion, and Don Bisplinghoff, of Orlando, Fla. When Tommy came to the 18th green in the quarter-final round, 1 down to Fred Oman, of Hastings, N. Y., Don was in Tommy's gallery. Tommy's ball was slightly away and it appeared that his



Don Bisplinghoff

only chance of survival rested on his holing the 15-foot putt.

As Tommy stepped through the gallery, Don passed him a shiny silver dollar: "Put this in your pocket for luck, Tommy."

The luck piece must have been effective. Tommy eventually won, by holing a 10-foot putt for a birdie 3 on the 19th green. As he walked back to the clubhouse, Don tapped him on the shoulder: "Now give it back," he said. "We meet tomorrow morning, and I'll need it."

With the luck piece in his own pocket again, Don dethroned Tommy, 3 and 2, in the semi-final round and won the

Championship by scoring a 76 to best Eddie Meyerson, of Los Angeles, Cal., 2 up, in the final. Don, 17, will be a senior at Orlando High School this fall and plans to enter Louisiana State University next year.

The loan of the luck piece to a potential winner in distress was just one of the many nice things which happen in the Junior, and they reveal why the USGA considers this event one of its most important. The younger generation, shown the way, adheres to the very highest standards of sportsmanship and friendly competition under the Rules of Golf, and Yale provided facilities to match the excellence of the competition. Since the entry reached a new high of 712, the good influence must be spreading.

Quality of play on the extremely rigorous Yale course was of a high order, too. Bisplinghoff, somewhat more mature than his rivals, went to the turn one day in 31. Jacobs and Meyerson also played beautifully in stretches. All three now graduate to the adult ranks, but Pete Geyer, of Monterey, Cal., the other semi-finalist, will be eligible next year.

The institution of a dinner for contestants and Junior Championship Committeemen was one of the highlights of a gratifying week at Yale. The New Haven Lawn Club set a handsome precedent in arrangements, and Herman Hickman, then Yale football coach, and Gene Sarazen were most informative and entertaining as speakers. Another was the consolation tournament for first-round losers at the nearby Woodbridge Country Club. Woodbridge turned over a beautiful course for the play and then sent the boys staggering home under the impost of so many extra helpings of shortcake and ice cream that they wondered by what standard they were "losers."